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IZMIR, Turkey—The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is evaluating intelligence reports stating that the Soviet Union has doubled its military strength in Hungary.

Sources at NATO's Southeast Europe Land Forces Command in this Turkish coastal city said the buildup began shortly before last December's Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. It was accelerated after the illness of the late Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito in January.

The Soviet Union, according to NATO reports, has now about 100,000 army and air force men in Hungary, compared to about 50,000 a year ago. Some of this force is concentrated west of the capital of Budapest, but most is along the sensitive Yugoslav frontier.

Western sources say the Russians have more than 30 major bases in Hungary. The ground forces include two armored and two motorized infantry divisions, as well as rocket and supply units. Air strength of close to 400 planes forms the so-called "69th Front Line Air Army," which is part of the Soviet "Southern Group," commanded by Gen. Vladimir Sivemok.

NATO's concern about the Soviet buildup centers not so much on the numerical strength but on the deployment and possible missions of this force. The Soviet Union is not under any pressure to reduce its troops there, since Hungary is not covered by the proposed mutual troop reductions discussed without much conviction or enthusiasm in Vienna.

Two theories are being analyzed:

- The strengthening of the Soviet garrisons in Hungary was part of the contingency plan for possible intervention in Asia Minor and the Gulf oilfields.

- The buildup, which started before the Afghanistan crisis, was also aimed at giving the Soviet Union a powerful military spearhead in the event of a deterioration of the situation in Yugoslavia.

The Soviet Union denies any plans to invade Yugoslavia, which, even after Tito's death last May, has managed to pursue its specific brand of communism and its defiance of Soviet hegemony. But analysts feel that internal difficulties or a secession of one of the Yugoslav republics might serve as an "invitation" either for Soviet assistance or intervention.

The headquarters of the Soviet air force in Hungary is in the town of Debrecen.